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INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1A

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 15 November 1950

SUBJECT Volkspolizei Bereitschaft in Apolda

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

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1. On [REDACTED] it was learned that a VP Bereitschaft with about 700 police was stationed in Apolda (L 52/J 67). The unit held infantry drill and trained with artillery pieces and tanks. Infantry and artillery training were conducted at the post under the supervision of Soviet instructors. The tank training was held at the Auerstedt (L 52/J 68) drill field. Two hundred police at a time were trained there in two-week cycles, living in a tent camp in the woods. Up to 12 tanks, mostly [REDACTED] and some [REDACTED] with Soviet officers and LI daily went to the training camp, leaving the barracks in Jena at 6 a.m. Only about 60 of the 200 police received actual tank training while the others were engaged in infantry field practice and in training as tank-accompanying infantry. The basic tank training usually lasted four days. It included a training mission during which the tanks were commanded and operated exclusively by VP personnel while the Soviet tank crews acted as simulated enemy. *

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2. The personnel of the VP Bereitschaft in Apolda were restricted to quarters and were granted town leave only individually and on special clearance.

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3. Mass examinations of civilians by German practitioners were started in Apolda on [REDACTED]. The physical examinations were observed by Soviet officers who acted as advisors for selecting those examinees with particular aptitudes for specialized training. It was said that conscriptions for the Volkspolizei on the basis of compulsory military service would become effective on [REDACTED].

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The 10th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) is listed as being located in the Spinnhuetten (spinning mill), Apolda. [REDACTED]

The infantry training program of the unit probably includes all artillery drill and cooperation with tanks. However, it is doubted that the training at Auerstedt was conducted with Soviet tank troops because the tanks from the Jena barracks, where the tank regiment

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of the 20th Gds Mecz Div is stationed, could not have traveled the 15-km distance to Auerstedt every day. It is also believed that the bulk of the 20th Gds Mecz Div has been at the Ohrdruf troop training grounds since the end of [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The promulgation of a universal police service law after the [REDACTED] elections in the Soviet Zone of Germany does not appear impossible.

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